

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1755

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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UNCLAS BANGKOK 4530

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SUBJ: CHATCHAI ON RTG RELATIONS WITH ASIAN COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE
MARCH 17 FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS
REMARKS ON RTG RELATIONS WITH ASIAN COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS:

CHATCHAI: IN ASIA, THERE ARE THREE IMPORTANT
COUNTRIES AND THE COUNTRY WE CONSIDER OF GREATEST IMPORT-
ANCE IS THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT
HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IT YET, IT IS EXPECTED THAT
THEY WILL MOST PROBABLY BE ESTABLISHED IN THE NOT-TO-DISTANT
FUTURE. THE TWO OTHER COUNTRIES ARE NORTH KOREA AND NORTH
VIETNAM. I BELIEVE WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO ESTABLISH FRIENDLY
RELATIONS WITH THESE THREE COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO HAVE NORMAL
CONTACTS WITH THEM.

REPORTER: REVERTING TO THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH
THREE ASIAN COUNTRIES, ON WHICH YOU MADE A STATEMENT JUST
NOW, I FEEL THAT A CONDITION WILL MOST PROBABLY BE DEMANDED
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BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. YOU SAID IN THE PAST

THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN CHINA, REDUCING RELATIONS TO THE LEVEL OF CONSULAR RELATIONS. SHOULD NORTH KOREA AND NORTH VIETNAM DEMAND A SIMILAR CONDITION -- FOR US TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA AND SOUTH VIETNAM -- DO YOU THINK THAT SIMILAR ACTION COULD BE TAKEN IN REGARD TO THOSE TWO COUNTRIES?

CHATCHAI: THE SITUATION IN REGARD TO CHINA IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE CHINA. BUT KOREA HAS BEEN PARTITIONED AND IT IS CONSIDERED THAT THERE ARE TWO COUNTRIES -- NORTH KOREA AND SOUTH KOREA. THEREFORE, SHOULD WE EXTEND RECOGNITION TO NORTH KOREA IT WOULD HAVE NO REPERCUSSIONS ON THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WE HAVE WITH SOUTH KOREA. WE COULD HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH BOTH NORTH KOREA AND SOUTH KOREA, WHICH WOULD CAUSE NO REPERCUSSIONS AT ALL. THE SAME SITUATION EXISTS IN REGARD TO NORTH VIETNAM BECAUSE VIETNAM HAS BEEN PARTITIONED AND IT IS CONSIDERED THAT NORTH VIETNAM AND SOUTH VIETNAM ARE TWO SEPARATE COUNTRIES ALREADY. THEREFORE, THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM OR DIFFICULTY AT ALL SHOULD RECOGNITION BE EXTENDED TO NORTH VIETNAM AND SOUTH VIETNAM SIMULTANEOUSLY.
MASTERS

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